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AMERICA DEFENDED

THE TRIBUNE on Wednesday published the full text of the speech made before the United Nations Security Council by the British delegate, Pierson Dixon. We did so in the belief that a summary would not do full justice to this calm, orderly, statement of case. It was a most impressive performance, in which Mr. Dixon and his government may justly take pride.

President Eisenhower went to the summit meeting in Paris skeptically but willing to give anything a try that offered any hope of relaxing tensions. He had often said that he would go anywhere, at whatever personal sacrifice, to avert war, and he meant it.

He knew the chances of accomplishing anything of consequence in Paris were woefully slim because it has been obvious for years that the Soviet government wants Russians and the other subject peoples to feel menaced from abroad; that way, the Soviet peoples can be kept on the communist reservation despite the mistreatment to which they are subjected by their own government.

Ambassador Dixon proved that even if the U-2 gave the Russians a legitimate basis for a complaint, it was a miserably inadequate excuse for breaking up a conference whose purpose was precisely to end the need for such observation flights as the U-2 undertook.

The point was driven home in the speech of France's delegate, Ambassador Andre Laroche, who called attention to the fact that the U-2 was not engaged in aggression in the sense that anything it did or could have done would have injured anyone in Russia, but the smashing of the summit conference did end the hope that some kind of accommodation could be found soon that would avert the real aggressions that everyone fears.

At this writing we do not know what President Eisenhower, in his report to the nation on Wednesday evening, will add to the speeches heard in support of the United States in the United Nations council, but whether he says so or not, he and the American people have reason to rejoice that we have allies and friends on the council who have not been fooled by Mr. Khrushchev's show.

In addition to Mr. Dixon and M. Bernard, our government had the support of Italy's delegate, Egidio Ortona as well as of Dr. Mario Amadeo of Argentina and Dr. C. M. Chang of Nationalist China. The only support Russia received came from the delegate of the puppet Polish government and even he couldn't find much to say for his side.

Mr. Eisenhower may rejoice, also, in the knowledge that American public opinion has swung his way. The speeches of Mr. Dixon and his fellow members of the Security Council must make disquieting reading for those Democratic politicians who leaped to the conclusion that they at last have an issue that will win for them in November.

What the Security Council speeches disclose is that foreign governments, no less than American voters, have not been stampeded by Khrushchev's frantic effort to make the U-2 business.